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Bangalore Mirror

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As many as 104 out of 113 lakes in Bengaluru have fluoride concentrations inching towards danger mark

FLUORIDE OVERRIDE

'Mineral causes dental fluorosis, skeletal fluorosis in rare cases'

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Slowly but steadily, the fluoride concentration in Bengaluru's lakes appears to be increasing, according to the water quality analysis report by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB).

As per the report, while the mineral was detected in 67 lakes in October last year, it was found in 86 waterbodies in December, followed by 100 waterbodies in January. The latest report by the board shows that as many as 104 out of 113 lakes being monitored had fluoride concentrations above detectable levels. While the concentration is within safe limits (below 1.5 mg/l) prescribed by CPCB, it appears to be inching towards breaching this mark.

In a couple of waterbodies, the concentration is close to 1mg/l (as per ISI, the permissible limit of Fluoride in drinking water is 0.6-1.2mg/l).

Experts noted fluoride is mostly found in groundwater, which is

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"KSPCB should ensure concentration of fluoride in waterbodies does not breach safe mark

— V Ramprasad, Friends of Lakes

Drunk driving cases spike

Bangalore Traffic Police registered 2,163 cases of drunk driving by end of February

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Nearly 30 per cent of last year's drunk driving cases were registered this year up till February.

However, traffic police officials BM spoke to said the positivity rate has remained the same over the years.

As of February 29, Bangalore Traffic Police registered 2,163 cases of drunk driving in the city. This constitutes 30.66 per cent of cases registered in 2023. While drunk driving cases seem to be on the rise, traffic officials attributed stricter enforcement as the major reason for the increase.

In 2023, Bengaluru saw 7,053 cases of drunk driving, a 73.2% decrease in cases from 2022 which posted 26,371 cases.

Traffic officials said increased enforcement is leading to higher numbers this year. "The higher numbers are due to more enforcement happening on the ground. A better indicator is the positivity rate i.e. of persons found positive for alcohol vs total persons checked. It remains the same at about 3-4% compared to previous years," said joint commissioner of police (traffic) MN Anucheth.

Traffic officials said they have been conducting enforcement drives almost

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Art Exhibition

Experience an innovative exploration of human emotions at the art exhibition "The Pollen Waits on its Tiptoe", inspired by the Navarasa. Divided into nine sections, each dedicated to a specific emotion, this exhibition showcases the complexity of human feelings through various mediums including painting, sculpture, photography, and mixed media.
Where- 7 Galleries, Chitrakala Parishat, Kumara Krupa Road; When- March 31 to April 8

02 The great laughter show

This uproarious event promises to tickle your funny bone with top-notch comedians delivering rib-tickling performances. Whether you're a comedy enthusiast or just looking for a good time, this show guarantees an unforgettable experience.
Where- The Art Gully Studio, Koramangala
When- April 6 to April 20

03 Pet Fiesta

Calling all pet lovers! Don't miss out on the ultimate celebration of furry friends at the Pet Fiesta, hosted at Marriott Whitefield. This

festival promises a day filled with fun activities for pets and their humans alike. **Where- Marriot Whitefield; When- March 31, 3 pm onwards**

Colours everywhere!

Children celebrating the festival of Holi in Basavanagudi

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Karnataka aces security measures for SSLC exams

District-level officers and board measures elevate student confidence

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As SSLC exams commence on Monday, students face the challenge of achieving top marks, as these exams serve as a benchmark for their future studies. Interestingly, in Karnataka, it is not just the students but also the district-level officers who play a crucial role in ensuring that students from their respective districts excel academically. Numerous districts across Karnataka are implementing special measures to enhance student performance.

For instance, in Udupi district, a new initiative has been launched by the administration. A group of officials has been tasked with visiting students' homes to assess their study habits. "Some students may not be studying diligently if their parents are absent due to work, or if there is no one to supervise them. Our officials conduct surprise visits to ensure that students are focused on their studies. We also check if students are distracted by mobile phones or television instead of studying, so we can motivate them to prioritise their studies," explained an official from Udupi district.

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board has taken extensive security measures for the SSLC exams. An official said, "A comprehensive network of 2,750 examination centres has been established across the state to accommodate the anticipated number of examinees. To ensure the integrity of the examination process, strict rules have been enforced, including a mandatory prohibition on the use of mobile phones for officers, staff, and examinees within these centres. Furthermore, a restricted area spanning 200 meters around each examination centre has been designated to maintain a controlled environment. Recognising the importance of security, necessary police personnel have been deployed to provide surveillance and ensure orderliness at each examination centre. The installation of CCTV cameras in all examination centres adds a layer of monitoring and oversight."

In terms of registration, a staggering total of 8,69,968 students have enrolled for the SSLC exam this year. Among them, 4,41,910 are boys, while 4,28,058 are girls. Around 41,375 are repeaters. The board has also identified 5,424 differently-abled students who will be taking the exam. To manage the examination process effectively, the board has strategically appointed officers from different levels as vigilance officers for the examination centres. District officers have been tasked with serving as district observers to oversee operations in their respective districts, while other teachers have been assigned as vigilance officers within the examination centres themselves. Students can expect examinations to be conducted in seven different mediums, including Kannada, English, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Urdu, and Marathi, catering to a diverse range of linguistic backgrounds and preferences.

An official said, "To boost student morale and confidence, mock exams have been organised, providing a conducive and stress-free environment for students to prepare themselves mentally. A special focus has been given to students' growth and learning outcomes through supplementary training, guidance from subject matter experts, and motivational sessions aimed at boosting their performance. Additionally, measures have been taken to support students taking exams from home, including guidance for parents on maintaining a conducive environment, instilling confidence in their children, and ensuring they arrive at the exam centres on time. Furthermore, initiatives like the question bank designed for low and medium-ability students provide a platform for scoring higher marks."

To manage the examination process effectively, the board has strategically appointed officers from different levels as vigilance officers for the examination centres

Music group comes in support of saving Cubbon Park

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The Karnataka government's proposal to erect a towering 10-storey annexe in place of the old Election Commission office has sparked widespread opposition from citizens. This comes amidst previous attempts by the government in 2019 to construct a seven-storey building, which also faced vehement public resistance on Sunday.

Swarthama group, a prominent folk band renowned for wearing its social conscience on its sleeve, stood up against the move with many walkers of Cubbon Park. Swarthama's members infuse their music with causes and beliefs close to their hearts, aiming to raise awareness and inspire action. Teaming up with the Cubbon Park Walkers' Association, they staged a protest at Cubbon Park on Sunday, through music.

Umesh Kumar expressed frustration over the lack of clarity from the government regarding the proposed construction. "The government has still not given us clear directions if their decision to construct a 10-storey building continues. Once such permission is given, other private entities would also follow suit. We are requesting the government to provide official numbers so that we know the status."

Members of Cubbon Park Walkers Association protest in Cubbon Park in Bengaluru (file photo)

Many others were also against the problem and expressed concerns over the potential implications on the city's landscape and infrastructure. "We don't need any building structures coming in Cubbon park. The government should prioritise preserving the heritage and green spaces of Bengaluru instead of succumbing to unchecked urbanisation," said a regular walker.

Another walker said, "Bengaluru is already grappling with issues like air pollution and shrinking green cover. Adding more concrete structures will only exacerbate these problems and degrade the quality of life for residents."

Despite the mounting opposition, government officials have yet to provide concrete reassurances or alter their plans.

HC urges swift appointment of RERA chairperson

HC's directive stresses timely functioning of real estate tribunal

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The declaration of Lok Sabha elections seems to have affected the process of appointing the Karnataka Real Estate Appellate Tribunal Chairperson, which has been vacant for the last 10 months. The learned Advocate General's opinion on the announcement of elections is viewed as an impediment to executing orders passed by the High Court.

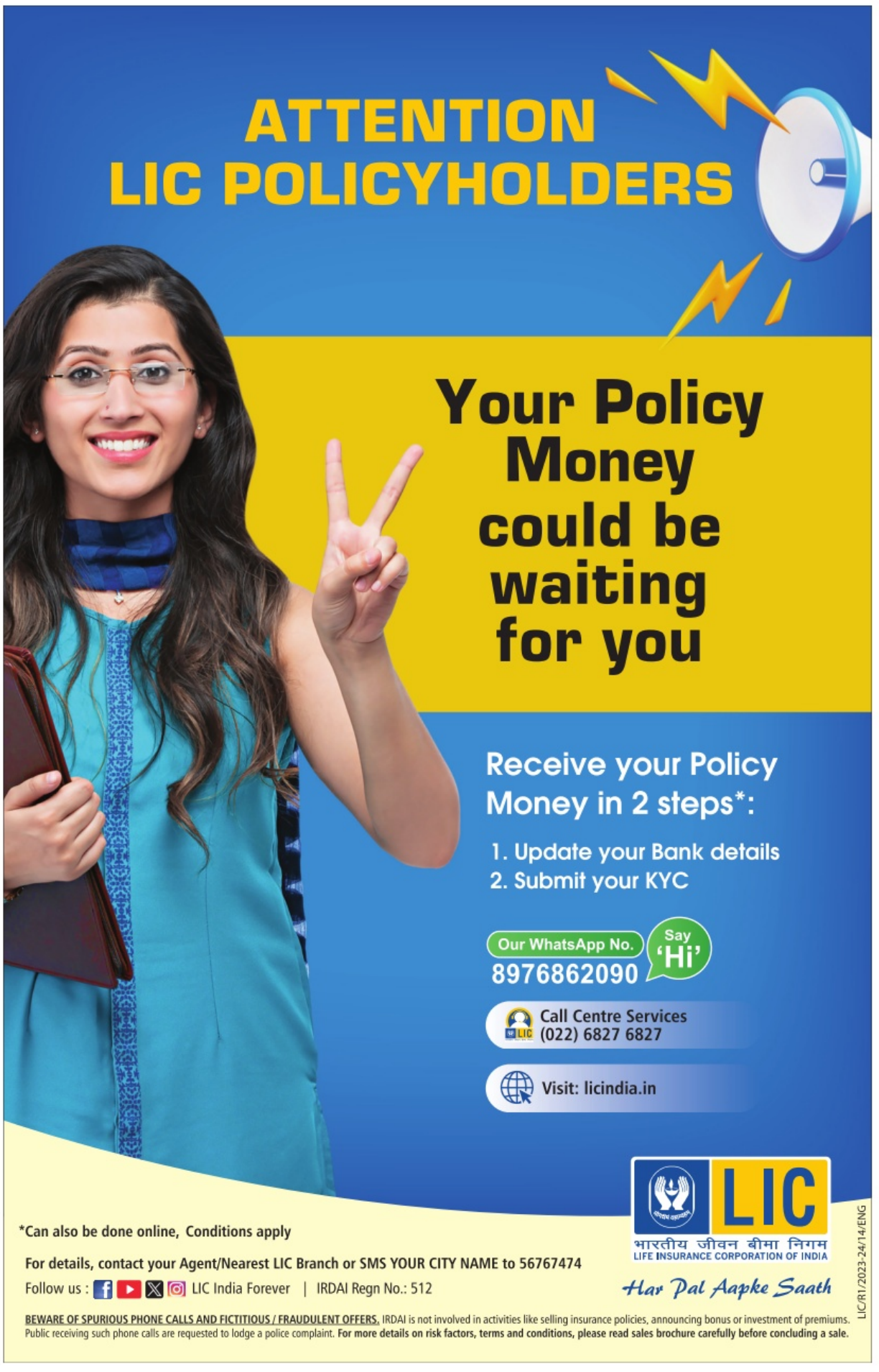
However, the High Court has directed the State to initiate the process of identifying and appointing a member to fill the ensuing vacancy and also the constitution of the Tribunal without any delay.

According to the petition filed in the Karnataka High Court, an appeal filed on February 2, 2023, with the RERA Tribunal was pending due to the Tribunal's non-existence. The petitioner claimed that the Tribunal became vacant on June 2, 2023, and asserted to have addressed representations to the government seeking to fill up vacancies in the Tribunal. However, the state government has not taken any steps to fill the vacancy and make the Tribunal functional by appointing a Chairperson. It is stated that Section 22 of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority requires the state to fill in the vacancies, and the proceedings should continue from that stage itself.

"All the orders passed by the RERA are appealable under Section 44(5) of the Act, and the Appellate Tribunal is required to dispose of the said appeals within 60 days from the date of receipt of the appeal," the petition mentioned. Due to the absence of a Chairperson, numerous petitions have been filed before the Karnataka High Court by promoters against orders passed by the Adjudicating Authority, which should have been directed to the Tribunal. Additionally, one member of RERA is set to retire in April 2024. The RERA Tribunal consists of one chairperson and two members.

However, the government failed to fill up the existing vacancy of the chairperson, and it seemed no measures were taken to fill up the vacancy arising next month. "It is needless to observe that the proceedings which have gone on since January 22, 2024, cannot be stalled on the ground that the elections are now declared. The constitution of the Tribunal is imperative, as well as filling up the vacancy of the member of the RERA so that the cases which are being filed in huge numbers before the Court would stop. It is needless to observe that the order is passed in the peculiar facts of this case, as the constitution of the Tribunal and the appointment of members to the RERA is imperative," said the High Court and posted hearing the petition on April 15.

Karnataka Home Buyers Forum Sanchalak Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar said, "The honourable High Court has given excellent directions to the state government that the announcement of the election should not impact the proceedings of the High Court."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LIC/R1/2023-24/14/ENG

Build, but don't break or block footpaths, drains

BBMP initiates penalties from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 against offenders, following complaints from residents and calls for sustained enforcement from civic activists

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A broken footpath on Mahadevapura Road (file photo)

Building owners who block or damage drains or footpaths will face penalties from the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000. The BBMP recently conducted a 10-day drive to identify violators who were damaging footpaths and drains during construction activities. The Palike penalised these violators and mandated them to rectify the damage caused to the drains. However, despite BBMP's intention to continue this enforcement, the frequency of these drives has decreased. Mahadevapura has a problem across the zone with many roads overflowing with water. Water from stormwater drains that usually lie below the footpaths are releasing water onto roads. Residents had regularly complained to the Mahadevapura Task Force about this issue. It was found that drains surrounding construction sites were being blocked with soil to create easy passageways for heavy vehicles. The footpath slabs were removed and filled with soil.

"With the drains leading to bigger stormwater drains ultimately flowing into lakes, blockage of any part of the network could lead to flooding in areas. Taking precautions against the rains this year, BBMP has decided to identify such spots and penalise owners 5k-10k," said Clement Jayakumar, General Secretary of Mahadevapura Task Force (Mobility).

"We have been receiving complaints from residents about water overflowing onto roads. When we asked BBMP officials to check, they observed that footpath slabs were being removed by construction sites and filled with soil. Filling with soil allows for easy passage of heavy vehicles. These footpaths are meant to only withstand pedestrian flow and can maybe withstand two-wheelers. But we are seeing four-wheelers and tractors using them. We have asked BBMP zonal commissioner, Chief Engineers, and Executive Engineers to take action against it," he added.

> **"We are seeing violations of drains and footpaths in many parts of Whitefield. Often, officials conduct drives and violators stop for a while, but they resume right after**
>
> – Sandeep Anirudhan, a city-based civic activist

He also highlighted that around 95 per cent of Mahadevapura is facing different kinds of problems with footpaths and drains. "It's widespread across Mahadevapura, and we have asked BBMP to take action. They have assured us of a 10-day drive against the violators with AEE and AE officials. BBMP will penalise the violators and also order them to rectify the damages done," he added.

Sandeep Anirudhan, a city-based civic activist, emphasised the need for sustained enforcement of laws. "We are seeing violations of drains and footpaths in many parts of Whitefield. Often, officials conduct drives and violators stop for a while, but they resume right after. There needs to be a system to ensure that there is sustained enforcement of the laws and not just drives," he added.

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Ignored pole
Ulsoor

The BESCOM street pole located at 7th Cross, SSM Road in Murphy Town, has been left unattended and is in a highly perilous state for quite some time.

Garbage everywhere
Shivajinagar

In Shivajinagar, specifically in NK Palya, individuals are indiscriminately disposing of garbage wherever they please.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client M/s. HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED (Public Sector Enterprise) a Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and having its Registered Office at Petroleum House, 17, Jamshedji Tata Road, Mumbai - 400 020 and having its Regional Office at 1st Floor BSNL CACT, K R Puram, Bengaluru-560016 represented by its Deputy General Manager and Duly Constituted Attorney intends to obtain ownership rights over the property more fully described in the schedule hereunder, to run and operate a petroleum retail outlet, from **Sri. K.A.James S/o Late K.I.Antony,** for the location Situated at Doddenakkundi industrial Area, ward 85, B.B.M.P Bengaluru, who claim and represent to be the absolute owner having clear and marketable right and title over the schedule property.

Any person/s, financial institutions, firms or predecessor/s-in-title, Govt. authorities/bodies, banks, co-operative societies, having any manner of right, interest or title over the schedule property or any portion thereof, or the boundary or having any kind of objection to the transaction may contact the under signed counsel along with relevant documentary proof within 30 days from this publication, after which it would be construed that there is no objection whatsoever from any one and the said transaction would be completed.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Plot No.14, Old, Survey No.210 & 211 & Khata no 52 Doddenakkundi Totally measuring an extent of 1138.45 Sq meters Situated at Doddenakkundi industrial Area, ward 85, B.B.M.P Bengaluru.

EAST BY:	Road
WEST BY:	Remaining Land Of the Land Owner
NORTH BY:	Remaining Land Of the Land Owner
SOUTH BY:	Private Property.

CHANDAN B, ADVOCATE
Nelamangala Date: 24/03/2024

Combatting spitting and littering at temples

Initiative to spread Tuberculosis awareness organised at Ragigudda Temple on World Tuberculosis Day

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An initiative towards litter-free, near-zero waste temples and awareness on anti-spitting and anti-littering was organised on Sunday on the occasion of World Tuberculosis (TB) Day. It is the right time to bring in reminders that TB is spread the same way as Covid and public spitting must stop.

This message was spread during an awareness drive held at Ragigudda Sri Prasanna Anjaneya Swamy temple. Manipal Hospitals were happy to support Beautiful Bharat's 'Stop India Spitting' movement, with the presence of their nurses and staff. Along with the focus on 'no litter, no plastic' by the Indian Ploggers Army and Women of Wisdom, this complemented the efforts for cleaner, healthier public spaces.

Odette Katrak, co-founder of Beautiful Bharat, said that post-Covid, it is essential to make it clear that public spitting is no longer acceptable, and people are now listening.

"We interacted with the public, shopkeepers, commuters, and those visiting the temple. Our call to action is also to those who don't spit, to play a role in influencing others not to spit, by making the link with disease and requesting them to spit only in a toilet or tissue and discard it carefully," said Odette Katrak.

She said that it is a long road that may take decades to see change. "We have been at it since March 2020 when the movement was launched at the start of Covid with our petition that resulted in public spitting becoming punishable in India. We are seeing a slow change with more people noticing and having conversations on the ground and a growing national network," she said.

Meanwhile, Plog Raj of the Ploggers Army said that the temple authorities also joined the volunteers in creating awareness. The volunteers have cleared 12 big sacks of trash over the plog. The Manipal Hospital team also created awareness of the ill effects of public spitting.

"It is always a good sign to have all key stakeholders involved whenever citizens take up any activity for a self-sustainable neighbourhood. Ragigudda temple cleanup is one such activity wherein right from residents to BBMP to temple authorities to the key volunteering groups like SWMRT, Indian Ploggers Army, and Beautiful Bharath are all involved. The tasks become easier, and we can replicate these across the city. Today's activity ensured a comprehensive approach as we not only created awareness on anti-littering & spitting but also emphasised the need for a cleaner place of worship," Plog Raj said.

Shwetha Ura, secretary of Women of Wisdom, said Ragigudda Temple is one of the oldest temples in Bengaluru. "We have taken a green temple initiative inspired by Banashankari Temple. I am happy with the participation of kids as they are the good and best change-makers in the long run within the community," she said.

Broke a rule? Watch it on video

To prevent being accused of making false claims, police plan to issue 15-second videos of traffic violation

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Several motorists in the city have expressed concern over getting inaccurate traffic fines through contactless methods, with some saying they were not at the spot during the violation and others saying there was inadequate evidence. To offset these claims, the police are considering offering a 10 to 15-second video of the traffic violation along with the penalty challan.

Bengaluru City police commissioner B Dayananda said that they are utilising artificial intelligence. "As much as 97 to 99 percent of cases are processed via contactless methods. Earlier, when officers stopped vehicles, there were allegations, so we have almost halted that practice. Currently, cameras are configured to capture photos of violators, and the challans are sent to their homes. Each challan has a QR code that, when scanned, displays the violation photo. Previously, checking this information on the website was a cumbersome process. Moving forward, we plan to include a video of the violation with the QR code; these videos will be 10 to 15 seconds long and serve as proof for individuals to understand how they breached traffic signals. Additionally, we are leveraging big data analytics by collating data from platforms like Ola, Uber, Swiggy, and other aggregators."

It's worth noting that Bengaluru has the slowest travel speed among major metros, with an average speed of 18 kmph compared to Mumbai's 23 kmph, Delhi's 24 kmph, and Ahmedabad's 27 kmph.

In 2022, 4, 20,541 signal jump cases were reported in the city. However, in the first nine months of 2023, the number of violations related to signal jumping has touched 8,46,283 cases. City police say that the increase in case detection is due to AI-based smart cameras at the junctions.

A senior police official said, "Our aim is to enhance seamless travel in the city. In the last year or so, the cops who were hitherto standing on roads to catch the traffic offenders have been reduced as time and again there have been stern messages that cops should catch only if there is a visible violation and not purposefully stop. Going forward, the focus of Bengaluru traffic policy will be evidence-based, contactless interventions based on AI."

Meanwhile, the traffic police plan to increase the number of traffic signals in Bengaluru from 363 to 500 to implement an Adaptive Traffic Controlling System in three phases in the next three years.

Traffic is like cricket commentary

In a TV interview, Dayananda remarked, "Traffic is akin to cricket in India; everyone has an opinion and commentary. Similarly, regarding traffic, people form their opinions based on their experiences. Secondly, many motorists tend to blame others for faults, believing that traffic rules apply to others and not themselves. This presents a conundrum for the traffic police. Bengaluru faces the challenge of exponential growth in vehicle numbers while road infrastructure remains static. For instance, the city's population, which was under 50 lakh 15 years ago, has now surpassed 1.3 crore, yet the roads have stayed the same. Hence, we are maximising technology usage."

Bless is more

Congress Mysuru candidate M Lakshmana met Suttur mutt seer Shivaratri Deshikendra Swami at Suttur mutt on Sunday and sought his blessings; BJP Mysuru Lok Sabha candidate YKC Wadiyar offered respect to the late Shri Vishvesha Tirtha seer of Shri Pejavara Mutt, Udupi during his visit to Vijaya Vittala Educational Institutions

Not dynastic, just listening to voters

CM says Congress gave tickets to ministers' kin as people of constituency recommended them

CM Siddaramaiah interacts with party leaders during the party's meeting on Mysuru and Chamarajanagar Lok Sabha election preparations on Sunday

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said giving tickets to the children and relatives of ministers was not dynastic politics but acknowledging the recommendation of voters.

In its second list of candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the Congress on March 21 announced fielding its national president M Mallikarjun Kharge's son-in-law and children of five ministers in Karnataka.

"Yes, we have given. We gave tickets to those whom the people of the constituency recommended. This is not dynastic politics but acknowledging people's opinion," Siddaramaiah told reporters.

He was replying to a query about 10 family members and relatives of Karnataka ministers getting tickets to contest the Lok Sabha polls on behalf of Congress.

Kharge's son-in-law Radhakrishna Doddamani will be in the fray in Gulbarga (Kalaburagi) Lok Sabha constituency.

PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi's daughter Priyanka Jarkiholi will fight from Chikkodi. Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy's daughter Sowmya Reddy will fight against BJP's sitting MP Tejasvi Surya from Bangalore South. Textile Minister Shivanand Patil's daughter Samyukta S Patil from Bagalkot, Woman and Child Welfare Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar's son Mrinal Hebbalkar from Belgaum (Belagavi) and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre's son Sagar Khandre from Bidar.

Former Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman K Rahman Khan's son Mansoor Ali Khan has been fielded from Bangalore Central and Minister S S Mallikarjun's wife Prabha Mallikarjun is in the fray from Davangere.

> **"We have spent Rs 36,000 crore this year. For next fiscal, we will earmark Rs 52,900 crore. We don't lie like the BJP. We implement what we promised**
>
> –Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

The chief minister said the party will release the list of candidates for the four remaining constituencies in Karnataka in a day or two. On a question of the party facing a 'knotty problem' in Chamarajanagar Lok Sabha constituency, the chief minister said, "We have neither any 'knotty problem' nor any conflict. Since we don't want to release the list in one slot, we are doing it later."

Siddaramaiah was confident that the Congress will win at least 20 Lok Sabha seats in the state. He said he will not lie like the BJP, which says that it will win all 28 seats in Karnataka, which, according to him, was not possible.

To a question whether the BJP and the JD(S) alliance will cause problems for the Congress, Siddaramaiah said, "That (alliance) will favour us."

When asked to elaborate on how the alliance will work for Congress, he said certain secrets cannot be revealed.

The chief minister said he was confident that the five guarantees his government has launched will surely help the party win the elections. We have spent Rs 36,000 crore this year. For next fiscal, we will earmark Rs 52,900 crore. We don't lie like the BJP. We implement what we promised," Siddaramaiah said.

Noting that his party depends on its achievements in the elections, the chief minister said people trust his government, unlike the BJP, which lies and never implements its promises. "In the 2018 assembly elections, the BJP made 600 promises, but it did not fulfill even 10 per cent of them. Did Prime Minister Narendra Modi give you Rs 15 lakh? Created two crore jobs, doubled the income of farmers and brought 'Achche Din'. Why will people trust him?" he said. **–PTI**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Hale & hearty

Former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy returned to Bengaluru from Chennai after undergoing his third heart surgery. When questioned by journalists about his health, he said, "During my previous surgeries, there were some challenges that have now been addressed. Advanced treatments and equipment have given me a new lease on life. However, with the Lok Sabha polls approaching, I can't afford much rest. I'll take a brief break for four days before embarking on a statewide campaign for NDA candidates."

Fake news

The BBMP recently revealed its revised property tax structure, signaling an increase. However, with the Lok Sabha polls looming, the Congress party opted not to rush the notification, mindful of the election code of conduct in effect. Opposition parties seized on this delay, circulating videos alleging that the Congress-led government had hiked property taxes, burdening Bengalureans. In response, BBMP issued a clarification on Sunday, refuting the fake video and urging people not to be misled.

Not yet decided

Kannada actor Kicchha Sudeep has previously lent his support to friends from various political parties during their campaigns. In the last elections, he even campaigned for BJP, citing his close ties with then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. With Lok Sabha election campaigning commencing, reporters inquired whether he would repeat this. Sudeep replied that he's undecided as no one has approached him yet. Meanwhile, actor Darshan affirmed his intention to campaign for Sumalatha if she runs, having campaigned alongside actor Yash in the past. Yash, however, mentioned he'll assess the situation before committing.

Inconsolable

Congress leader Veena Kashappanavar was a strong contender for Congress candidate from Bagalkot parliamentary seat. She had visited her constituency multiple times and even addressed the press confidently about her aspirations before the official ticket announcement. However, her hopes were dashed when the Congress high command decided to nominate Samyukta Patil instead. When questioned by journalists about her disappointment, Veena became inconsolable, expressing her faith and subsequent loss tearfully. Journalists had to console her as she lamented her missed opportunity and eventually left the scene in her car, too upset to continue speaking.

No comments

In Bengaluru, protests had erupted over an incident that took a communal colour. While this was happening, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was in Delhi attending a party meeting. Reporters were eager to hear his thoughts on the Bengaluru protests, but when they approached him, the CM became visibly agitated. He pushed away the microphones, demanding space to move, and despite repeated attempts to get a response, he chose not to speak and continued on his way. **–Sridhar Vivan**

B'lureans protest in support of Ladakhi activist

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

In support of Ladakh and activist Sonam Wangchuk, more than hundred city residents gathered at Freedom park on Sunday, the 19th day of Wangchuk's fast.

The fast is being held in Ladakh with demands including statehood for Ladakh, jobs, protection of their land and resources, and a parliamentary seat each for Leh and Kargil districts. Protesters also want implementation of the Sixth Schedule, a Constitutional provision that protects tribal populations and allows them to set up autonomous organisations that frame laws on land, health and agriculture. It needs to be taken into account that close to 97% of Ladakh's population is tribal.

A human chain was formed to show support and the solidarity gathering began with Ladhaki prayers sung by the students from Ladakh residing in Bengaluru.

Sandeep Anirudhan, an activist and the founder of Conscious Communities and DT Devare, an environmentalist and trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust, present at the gathering spoke of the rapidly changing climate systems, and the role of people and governments to save our future generation from the impending effects of the climate emergency. Sandeep related that the demand for Sixth Schedule is a reiteration of the dream of Swaraj by

Protesters gather at Freedom Park on Sunday

Mahatma Gandhi. "This is also enshrined in the Constitution, in the 73rd and 74th Amendments and in Forest Rights Act, and the 6th Schedule, stressing the need for devolution of power to ensure protection of our environment from destruction," he said. Representatives from Jhaktaa.org who are supporting the cause through their petition were also present at the gathering.

Namratha, one of the organisers of the gathering, said that many are supporting the cause by holding a 'climate fast' anywhere between 24 to 72 hours. She noted that a similar gathering was held in Cubbon Park on March 17, in support of the cause. "A group of supporters that started with three members has now risen to 400. Everybody who gathered believes that the nation is still a democracy. As we speak up through our movements and express our dissent, the government needs to listen to us," she said. She added that a citizen, Pradeep, travelled over 100 km to attend the gathering and show his support.

The group also discussed how climate change and centralised governance is impacting Bengaluru, and noted that the many issues that are beginning to spring up are a result of consumerism, unplanned urbanisation, indifference towards the environment, and the lack of local participation in decision making.

Big worry

Natives of Ladakh who majorly practice agriculture for their livelihood are particularly fearful of the consequences of the revokement of Article 370 which accorded special status to the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, and provided it with reasonable autonomy. After the revocation, Ladakh was turned into a union territory to be governed by federal authorities. Now, they fear that the identity and culture of Ladakh will soon be under threat.

When life gives you expensive lemons...

B'lureans distraught as price of lemons shoots up; chicken prices too have risen last week

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Currently, regular-sized lemons are fetching as much as Rs 12 per piece

Lime juice or lemon pickle is favourite for Bengaleans especially the former during summer. However, not many can afford it this year as lemon has now become the new 'tomato'. Ironically, one can buy a kilogram of tomato for Rs 10 in the market while each lime now costs anywhere between Rs 8 to Rs 10. Traders said that the local markets are experiencing a significant shortage of limes, driving prices to exorbitant levels. The cost of limes has increased to Rs 8 per piece for large ones, compelling consumers to ration their purchases. Currently, regular-sized limes are fetching as much as Rs 12 per piece, while smaller and medium-sized limes are priced at Rs 8 and Rs 9per piece, respectively. The demand will increase during summer, and prices may go up to Rs 10-12 per piece.

Traders said that the shortage has been particularly acute over the past few days, with limes trickling into the market in small quantities from north Karnataka and other regions. As there is rapid depletion of stocks, limes get exhausted the very same day. Dwindling lime crops in Vijayapura district due to poor yield have also contributed to the price rise as it is the primary source. Dr Veeresh Sattageri, a physician said, "We often recommend patients to drink lime juice as it is good for hydrating during summer. It also rejuvenates the body but patients complain that limes have become too pricey."

> **"Earlier, we would buy 100 lemons for Rs 250 to Rs 300 in wholesale market and sell in retail for Rs 4 to Rs 5. Now we are forced to pay Rs 700 to Rs 800 for 100 lemons** –Trader

Traders say that it is common to see appreciation of lime prices during every summer. However, this summer has seen unusually high prices. The supply is not matching the demand. "Earlier, we were buying 100 limes for Rs 250 to Rs 300 in wholesale market and hence we would sell in retail for Rs 4 to Rs 5. However, now the lime prices in wholesale market is that we are forced to pay Rs 700 to Rs 800 for 100 limes and hence the retail prices have gone up," said a trader. Bengaluru usually gets its lime stocks from Vijayapura district, and from Kadapa and Anantapur districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Meanwhile, chicken prices have surged rapidly over the past week. The cost of chicken with skin has risen to Rs 240-260, while skinless chicken is now priced at Rs 300. Typically, chicken prices decrease during the summer months, but this year, they have unexpectedly climbed. Jayalakshmi, who operates a chicken shop in Hegganahalli cross, laments the decline in her sales due to the soaring prices. "Previously, we would sell around 1000 kg every Sunday, if not more. Now, I can only manage to sell 300 kgs. Our livelihood depends on this chicken shop, but it has become increasingly difficult to cover expenses such as gas, rent, worker wages, and more. The pandemic already cost me my job, and now this situation is further affecting my life," she expressed.

Poultry experts attribute the price hike to escalating costs of poultry feed, coupled with challenges in maintaining production levels due to the rising temperatures. The prices of key feed components like soybean and corn have surged significantly in recent days. Fluctuating temperatures have led to higher bird mortality rates, reducing overall supply. Hotels are also grappling with the situation as they struggle to procure chicken at wholesale rates and witness reduced consumer demand for non-vegetarian dishes. The pandemic already posed significant challenges for them, and this resurgence of high prices is exacerbating their difficulties. Consumers, in turn, are feeling disappointed as they find it challenging to satisfy their desire for affordable and fulfilling meals.

Anuj Rawat eyes long-term role as RCB's wicket-keeper batter

Anuj Rawat on Sunday hoped to cement his position as Royal Challengers Bengaluru's long-term wicket-keeper batter after veteran Dinesh Karthik has announced that this will be his last IPL season.

Rawat gave a glimpse of his versatility with a 25-ball 48 that helped RCB register a competitive 173 for six after initial struggles against the Chennai Super Kings.

It was quite fitting that the 24-year-old left-hander played that innings in the company of Karthik, who did the duty of wicketkeeper-batter for RCB over the last couple of seasons with a good degree of success.

> **Rawat gave a glimpse of his versatility with a 25-ball 48 that helped RCB get a competitive 173 for six against CSK**

Rawat said the RCB management has clearly communicated to him about his new role in the team.

"The communication has been very clear to me as in batting down the order. As someone keeping wickets, you have to bat in the middle-order a lot," Rawat said in a press-conference ahead of RCB's match against Punjab Kings on Monday.

The Delhi cricketer, who kept wickets for RCB in the last couple of matches during the IPL 2023, said his confidence level has improved.

"Last season also, I kept wickets in a few games and it gave me more confidence and as this season goes on, I am looking forward to contributing more as a wicketkeeper batsman," said Rawat.

Rawat said the Royal Challengers will be looking to win all their upcoming home fixtures after losing the first match against CSK.

Apart from Punjab, the Royal Challengers will take on Kolkata Knight Riders on March 29 and Lucknow Super Giants on April 2 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

"We are following the same process as the last match (against CSK). We are looking forward to our home games and hoping to win all of them," he added. –PTI

Kangana, Arun Govil, Naveen Jindal in BJP's fifth LS list

Race to Lok Sabha

The BJP on Sunday released its fifth list of Lok Sabha candidates, comprising 111 names from 17 states, including actress Kangana Ranaut from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi, Ramayan's Ram Arun Govil from UP's Meerut, former Union Minister Maneka Gandhi from UP's Sultanpur, and industrialist Naveen Jindal from Haryana's Kurukshetra.

Former Calcutta High Court judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay, who quit the bench recently and joined the BJP, has been fielded from West Bengal's Tamluk seat.

Other prominent candidates include Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan from Odisha's Sambalpur, former IAS officer Aparajita Sarangi from Bhubaneswar, party spokesman Sambit Patra from Puri, Andhra Pradesh unit chief D. Purandeswari from Rajahmundry, and former Andhra Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy, who quit the Congress, from Rajampet.

In Bihar, the party has fielded Union Ministers R.K Singh from Arrah, Nityanand Rai from Ujiarpur, and Giriraj Singh from Begusarai. Former Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad from Patna Sahib, Rajiv Pratap Rudy from Saran, Radha Mohan Singh from Purvi Champaran, and Ram Kripal Yadav from Pataliputra also figure in the list.

JMM's Sita Soren, who recently joined the party, has been fielded from Dumka (ST).

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, who recently returned to the party from the Congress, has been fielded from Belagavi and former state minister K Sudhakar from Chikkaballapur. In Kerala, state chief K Surendran has been fielded from Wayanad, where Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is contesting.

Sitting MP Varun Gandhi has been denied a ticket from UP's Pilibhit and UP minister Jitin Prasad fielded in his place. Longtime Bareilly MP and former Union Minister Santosh Gangwar has also been dropped and Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar was named the candidate.

The BJP has fielded Atul Garg from Ghaziabad, as sitting MP and Union Minister, Gen VK Singh (retd) expressed his unwillingness to contest the polls.

IANS

Fluoride rising in B'luru lakes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of geogenic origin (naturally occurring), and high fluoride levels in groundwater samples imply overexploitation.

"The deeper you go, the higher the fluoride content will be, and is extremely dangerous to health. Continued consumption of higher concentrations of this mineral causes dental fluorosis and in extreme cases even skeletal fluorosis. Surface waterbodies with higher concentrations of fluoride are a matter of bigger concern," said a city-based expert.

Researchers said while the major source of fluoride is the presence of fluorine-bearing minerals in rocks and sediments, human activities such as use of fertiliser and the release of untreated industrial waste add to the level.

"A large number of surface waterbodies with a considerable level of fluoride indicates anthropogenic activities. One of our studies done on Bengaluru's lakes shows that nearly 98% of the lakes in the city are encroached and 92% of the lakes are sewage-fed along with industrial influence. It only goes to show that untreated sewage is entering the lakes. Higher concentration can be due to industrial input as well," said Dr TV Ramachandra, Center for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

A report by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) in 2022 revealed that around 5% of the samples collected from bore wells of Bengaluru's rural districts indicated fluoride levels greater than the permissible limit of 1.5 mg/l. It also underlined that southwest and northeast parts of the rural taluk were found to be the worst hit with fluoride content ranging between 0.24 to 1.6 mg/l.

"There are many districts and taluks in the state that are facing the issue of high fluoride content in the groundwater. KSPCB should look into the issue and ensure that the concentration of fluoride in surface waterbodies does not breach the safe mark. Lakes contribute to groundwater table and recharge from water bodies containing this element will further increase its concentration underground," said V Ramprasad, founder of Friends of Lakes.

Drunk driving: Cops attribute stricter enforcement

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

every day and most of the offenders have been two-wheelers. "We are conducting enforcement drives almost every day. The higher numbers can be attributed to increased enforcement. Each station has been allocated 2-3 alcometers. Daily, we are booking 5-6 cases and a majority of them are two-wheelers. We are conducting our enforcement drives near pubs and bars," said a senior traffic officer.

Traffic experts said apart from stricter enforcement and awareness, change in vehicle design should be considered. "It's an existing technology that is yet to be implemented in India. Future models of vehicles should have changes in design and allow only vehicle owners meeting permissible levels of alcohol levels to drive. Vehicles can have alcometers pre-installed and vehicle owners would have to use the alcometers to start the vehicle. The vehicle would be only allowed to start provided the alcometer tests prove the driver is intoxicated within permissible levels. Additionally, changes in insurance claims to restrict claims for drunk driving cases should be strictly implemented for a behavioural change," said Dr Ashish Verma, convenor at the Indian Institute of Science's Sustainable Transportation Lab.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, SREENIVASAN PABBISETTY SATYANARAYANA GUPTA S/o Pabbisetty Satyanarayana Gupta, R/at 509, Rathnasree, 9th main, Near Post Office BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore- 560070 have changed my name to SREENIVASAN PABBI SETTY vide affidavit dated: 22/3/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, Manjunatha Attibele Nanjappa S/o. Nanjappa, Residing at No.425/11, 1st Main, Behind Someshwara Temple, Navodaya Road, Manjunatha Layout, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037 have changed my name to A N MANJUNATH S/o. M NANJAPPA, vide affidavit dated 21.03.2024 Sworn before notary: K.V. Jagannath Reddy, Bangalore

I, ASHA W/o Shivalingaiah Satish, R/at No.12, 3rd Main, Behind Garadi Apts, Tata Silk Farm, Bangalore-560004, have changed my name to ASHA SATISH vide affidavit dated: 22/03/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, SATISH S/o Shivalingaiah R/at No.12, 3rd Main, Behind Garadi Apts Tata Silk Farm, Bangalore-560004, have changed my name to SHIVALINGAIAH SATISH vide affidavit dated: 22/03/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, Archana Adarsh R/o No.41, Aravindam Flat.301, 3rd Flr, 2nd cross, 2nd main, Kandhappa Lyt, Beml 5th stage, RR Nagar, B'luru 560098 have changed my name to Archana Adarsha affidavit Dt.23/03/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, BHARATHI SRINIVASAN PABBISETTY W/o Sreenivasan Pabbi Setty, R/at No.509, Rathnasree, 9th Main, Near Post Office, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore- 560070 have changed my name to BHARATHI SREENIVASAN PABBI SETTY vide affidavit dated: 22/03/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I Pradnya Rajesh residing at 37 type 4 block 7 Nimhans Bayarasandra campus Bangalore 560011 I have changed my name from Pradnya Rajesh to Pradnya Dhargave for all purpose

I, Shevam Umashankar R/o Flat.770, Block-C6, BDA flats, Austin Town, Bengaluru 560047 have changed my name to Shivam Umashankar affidavit Dt.23/03/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

LOST & FOUND

LOST: I, SURESHBABU.C.P. S/o C.P. ACHU, Resi. at # 127, Railway Parallel Road, 5th Cross, Ambedkarnagr, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560 022 have lost the original sale deed document No. HSR-1-05668-2011-12,CD. No. HSRD88, Dt.29.12.2011 while shifting of house. If found please contact : 9880779794 or handover nearest police station.

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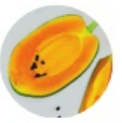
GET NOTICED

HEALTH TIP: Consuming strawberries daily can contribute to oral health by promoting teeth whitening and fresher breath



Papaya is said to be rich in Vitamin C and super good for gum health

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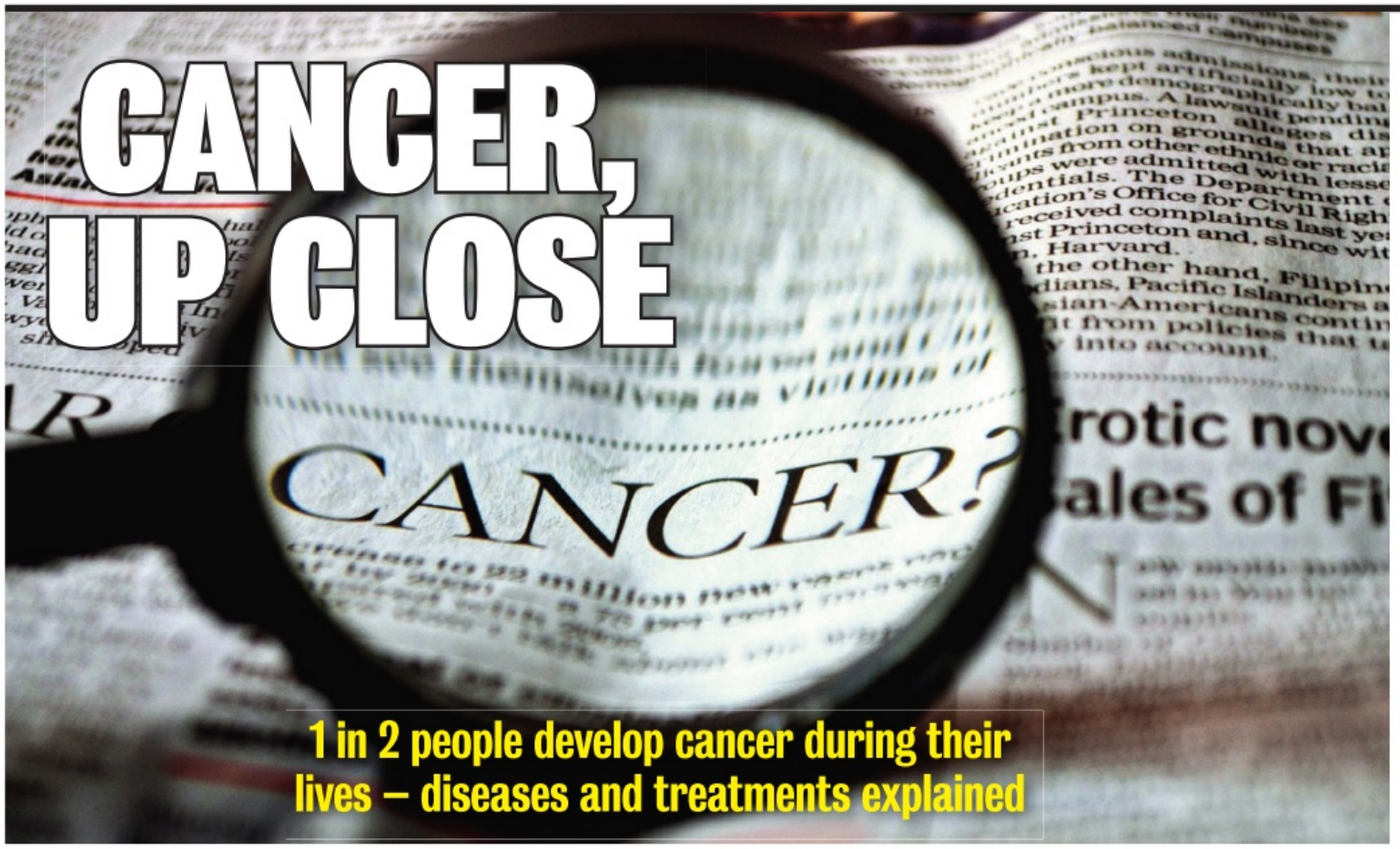


CANCER, UP CLOSE

1 in 2 people develop cancer during their lives – diseases and treatments explained

The Princess of Wales released a moving video message on March 22 to address speculation about her health. In it, the future queen disclosed that she'd been diagnosed with cancer following tests conducted after she underwent major abdominal surgery at a clinic in London in January.

Catherine explained that she was undergoing "preventative chemotherapy" – but emphasised that her surgery had been successful, and that she was "well" and "getting stronger every day".

The message was the second announcement of a royal family cancer diagnosis in recent weeks. On February 5, Buckingham Palace published a statement that King Charles III had been diagnosed with an undisclosed form of cancer, unrelated to the treatment he had been receiving for an enlarged prostate.

The statement said that he had begun "regular treatments". The king postponed all public-facing duties during his treatment, but reportedly continued with his "constitutional role as head of state, including completing paperwork and holding private meetings".

Cancer is the leading cause of death worldwide. One in two people will develop some form of cancer in their lifetime – so the condition will affect almost every family. However, many cancers can be cured if, as appears to be the case with the king, the condition is detected early and treated effectively.

What is cancer?

Our bodies are made up of more than 100 billion cells, and cancer typically starts with changes in a small group of cells – or even a single one.

We have different cell types depending upon where in the body they are and the function that the cell has. The size, amount and function of each of these cells is normally tightly regulated by genes – groups of codes held within our DNA – that instruct cells how to grow and divide.

However, changes (mutations) to DNA can alter the way cells grow and multiply – often forming a lump, or solid tumour. Cancers can also develop in blood cells, such as white blood cell cancer which is known as leukaemia. This type of cancer does not form solid tumours; instead, the cancer builds up in the blood or sometimes the marrow in the core of bones, where blood cells are produced.

In all, there are more than 200 types of cancer, but all start with mutations in the DNA contained within each and every cell.

> **Cancer survival depends on various factors such as age – people under 40 have a greater chance of survival – overall health and fitness, as well as family history**

What exactly are mutations?

Think of your DNA as a big recipe book, and your genes as individual recipes for making different dishes. Mutations are smudges or missing words from this recipe that can result in key ingredients not being added into the mix.

Regardless of the type of cancer or the cells from which it develops, mutations in our genes can result in a cell no longer understanding its instructions.

These mutations can happen by chance when dividing, but can also be the result of lifestyle choices such as smoking, drinking, and inactivity.

Research has found that in order for a normal cell to turn into a cancerous cell, anywhere from one to ten different mutations are normally required.

How is cancer treated?

Treatment options for cancer depend on a variety of factors, including where your cancer is, how large it is, and whether it has spread to other parts of the body. The main treatments for cancer include surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy.

Chemotherapy uses drugs to target and kill cells that are rapidly dividing in our bodies. This approach is effective at targeting fast-growing cells in various cancers – but also has negative side effects. It also targets healthy cells that rapidly divide, such as hair and the cells lining our digestive system. This can lead to commonly reported side-effects such as hair loss, nausea and diarrhoea.

Chemotherapy can be used both preventatively – as in the case of the princess – and therapeutically.

Preventative chemotherapy, also known as adjuvant chemotherapy, is given after surgery or other primary treatments to eliminate any remaining cancer cells in the body. It aims to reduce the risk of the cancer returning (known as recurrence).

Therapeutic chemotherapy is used as a treatment option for cancer that has spread or is well established, such as advanced-stage cancers.

Surgery involves the physical removal of cancerous tissues as well as nearby lymph nodes – small glands which act as filters in your body that cancers can spread through – to eliminate the tumour. Surgery is often used to remove localised cancers that haven't spread throughout the body.

Radiotherapy uses high-energy radiation beams that are able to target specific areas where tumour cells are located to destroy or shrink the tumour. Radiotherapy can be applied externally or internally.

Chemotherapy, surgery, and radiotherapy are often combined in cancer treatment to improve outcomes for patients.

Thanks to developments in cancer research over the last 50 years, survival rates have improved greatly – although the rate of improvement has slowed recently. Cancer survival depends on various factors such as age – people under 40 have a greater chance of survival – overall health and fitness, as well as family history.

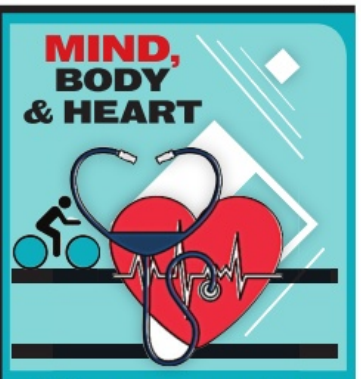
What you should do

Particular changes in your body or warning symptoms could indicate the presence of cancer. These include, but are not limited to:

- Unexplained weight loss;
- Fatigue that doesn't improve with rest;
- Changes in bowel or bladder habits;
- Persistent cough or coughing up blood;
- Difficulty swallowing;
- Persistent pain;
- Noticing lumps, such as in a breast or testicle.

The symptoms may not necessarily be the result of cancer. But it is important to get checked by a doctor if you notice anything out of the ordinary or have had persistent symptoms that don't ease. Early detection and treatment can significantly improve outcomes for many types of cancer.

(By Gavin Metcalf, Anglia Ruskin University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

TB symptoms

Other than cough

While coughing is a major symptom of tuberculosis (TB), experts on Sunday said that it is important for people to recognise that many cases manifest without this symptom. As per experts, people need to watch for signs like unexplained weight loss, fatigue, night sweats, and prolonged fever instead. Additionally, chest pain, difficulty in breathing, and coughing up blood can indicate advanced stages of the disease.

Monitor closely

"Vigilance in monitoring for these diverse symptoms is key to early detection and intervention. We must emphasise the importance of seeking medical attention promptly if any of these signs arise, especially in regions with high TB prevalence," Dr Ranganatha R, Head – Narayana Health City, Bengaluru, told IANS.

Survey finding

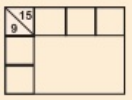
A recent meta-analysis of 12 surveys (620,682 participants) from eight countries in Africa and four in Asia found that a majority of individuals with pulmonary TB did not report cough, and this was more common among women. "As clinicians, we have noticed that women often tend to present late and ignore cough or not report it. It is also equally important to note that TB, which does not affect the tissue of the lungs, represents a significant proportion of the disease and will not present with cough," said Dr Lancelot Pinto, PD Hinduja Hospital & MRC, Mahim.

Raise awareness

A recent study published in the journal Lancet Infectious Diseases showed that 82.8 per cent of people with TB had no persistent cough, and 62.5 per cent had no cough at all. By raising awareness about the various presentations of TB, the experts said that timely diagnosis and treatment ultimately curb the spread of this infectious disease. **-IANS**

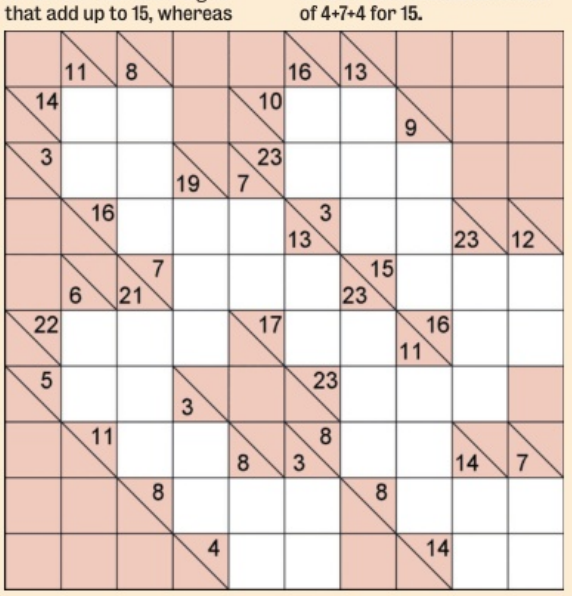
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

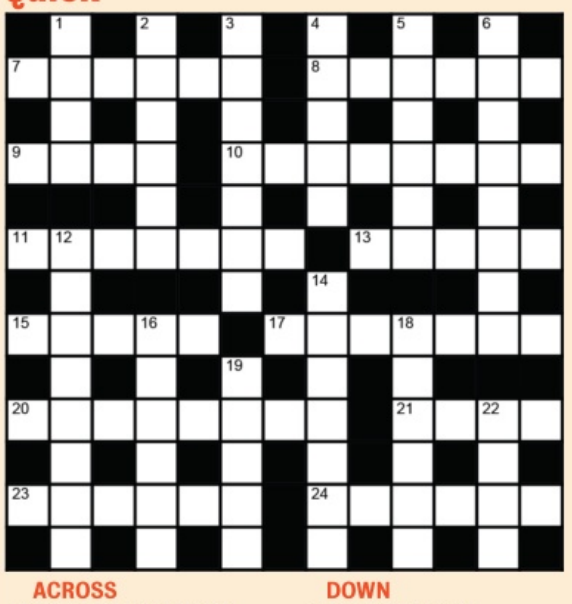


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Term of play in polo (6)
8 Joined together (6)
9 Call to attract attention (4)
10 Defender of monarchy (8)
11 Hurrying up (7)
13 Up to the time (5)
15 He is ___ provided : he is rather fat, colloquially speaking? (5)
17 Free (2,5)
20 Judging standards (8)
21 The sixth letter of Greek alphabet (4)
23 Cut down a tree (6)
24 Middle Eastern country (6)

DOWN

1 The thing here (4)
2 Brief outline (6)
3 Bollywood's Ms Kaif (7)
4 Remains behind (5)
5 Four quarts (6)
6 Eating an elaborate meal (8)
12 Not blemished (8)
14 This cathedral in Bangalore is over 200 years old (2,5)
16 Small (6)
18 Capital of Mizoram (6)
19 Destroy gradually (5)
22 Lean (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS G

ZMKIVZR VU VSHMUUVPTF XMN KIF SOZ CIM WMFUZ'K IODF KM WM VK IVSUFTX.

Linemaro

Know what's on the menu? Me-n-u

Mindchow

Love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation

Joke of the day

If someday we all go to prison for downloading music, I hope they split us by music genre

Loop

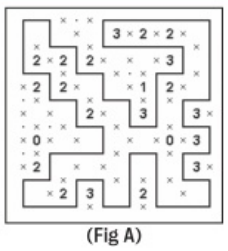
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

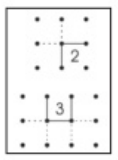
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

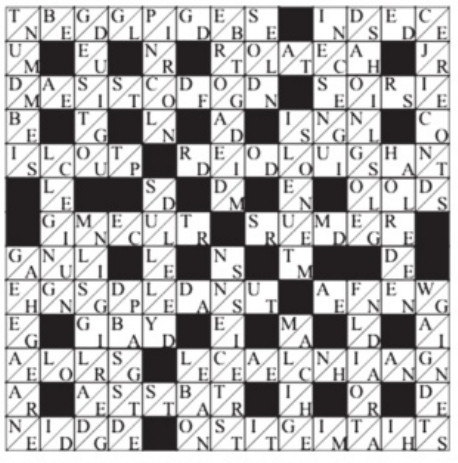


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3 U	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Us CRT; 6 En Che; 7 Arete; 8 Oaten; 9 As pap

DOWN

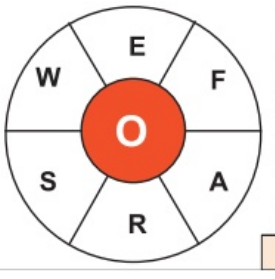
1 Peach; 2 Are at; 3 Ton-up; 4 Canes; 5 Reset

Mensapuzzle

What letter comes three to the right of the letter that comes immediately to the left of the letter that comes three to the right of the letter immediately to the left of the letter B?

A B C D E F G H

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

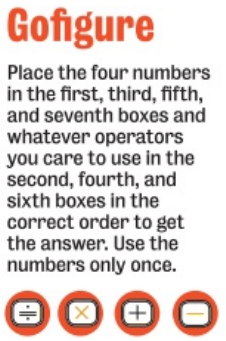
SudokuChallenge

		6	8	4		2		
	5						7	
1			7					8
			2		6	8		5
6								7
2		7	3		4			
4					9			3
	1						5	
		2		6	7	9		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 8
1 4 6 9

Medium = 20
6 8 9 9

Hard = 25
2 6 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

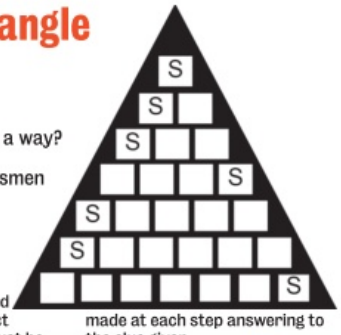
Differences: 1. Pad is longer. 2. Diploma is larger. 3. Hat is different. 4. Rung is added to chair. 5. Hang is moved. 6. Tie is thinner

Riddler

Below are 5 words that are well-known. The beginning of the word is missing, and only the ending letters remain. Can you figure these words out? ___thm ___amt ___spy ___sip ___uld

Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 Thus
3 Drunkard
4 Playthings
5 Cold and hard, in a way?
6 Snobbish
7 Powerful businessmen

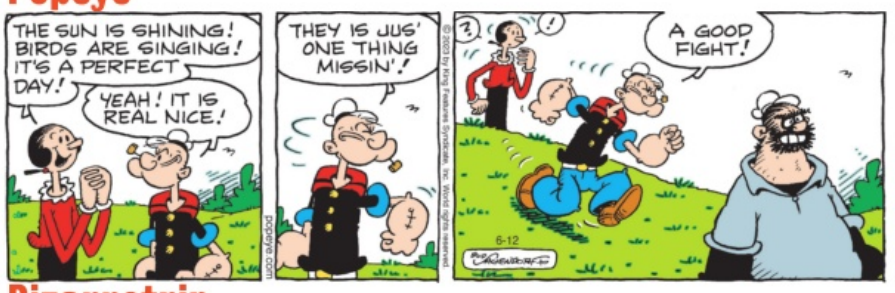


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

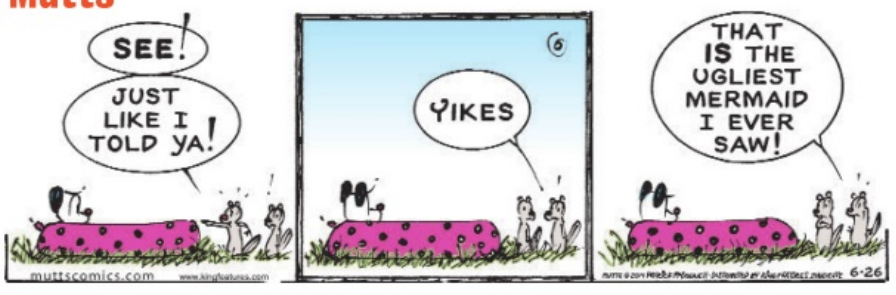
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

GREAT GHOSTS OF ROGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN! A MUSICAL MUSE IS UPON ME!
I FEEL AN INCREDIBLE SHOWTUNE BUSTING TO GET OUT!
WHERE'S THE AMPLIFIER?
SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE.

Crankshaft

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you can control your spending on useless items. Consider investing capital in your business or savings into real estate for future financial health. Be polite to others and focus on domestic affairs, though your spouse may be upset or experience health issues.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may experience good vitality and inner strength today. Take the opportunity to create and implement plans efficiently, but be sure to read documents carefully before signing. Due to high enthusiasm, consider investing capital in the family business. Lovebirds should avoid discussing pointless topics.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel lethargic today and encounter obstacles in your work. Be discerning about the help you offer others. Quick business results are not advised. Avoid spending money on useless things that may annoy your family.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Your hard work may pay off today, leading to success. Consider planning a short work-related visit. Your team members may support your business plans, and your opponents may appreciate your efforts. Good news related to siblings may come your way.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today may bring anxiety and restlessness. Avoid wasting time on useless tasks and consider visiting a religious place for peace of mind. Seek advice from elders to manage confusing situations.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, the community will come together, benefiting your future network. Those in glamour, art, and fashion may plan something new for their profession. Students will perform well academically, and lovebirds will enjoy happy moments.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
The situation is under control today, with potential business profits and rewards for hard work. Consider restarting deferred plans and expect a peaceful religious journey. Consider donating to a religious place or charitable organisation.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may be busy with work today, affecting family time. Consider expanding your network and be cautious with investments. Employees may receive promotions.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Blessed with the moon's influence, you may hear good news regarding your profession. Domestic life may be happy, but avoid arguments and maintain patience. Consider important decisions regarding real estate investment, and students should focus on their studies.

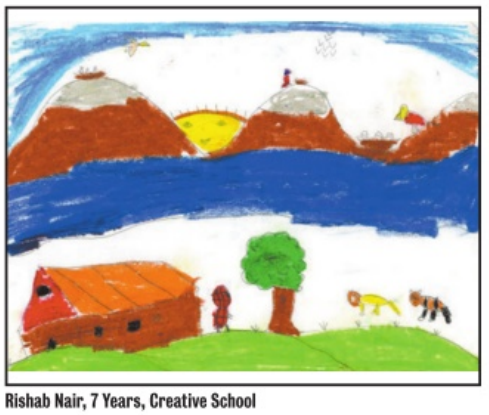
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your mood may not be favourable, leading to health issues and potential business losses. Avoid new investments and useless products to prevent further losses. Stay away from controversies to avoid negative impacts.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Negative vibes may surround you today, leading to unpleasantness. Avoid investing in worthless assets and don't rely too much on friends for help. Make independent decisions.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Though feeling lethargic, focus on work and prioritise your child's studies. You may overcome enemies and foes, but investors should be cautious. Job seekers may find suitable employment opportunities.

KIDZONE

Simon Leo, 9 Years, St. Vincent Pallotti School



Rishab Nair, 7 Years, Creative School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
=[(-1-1/2)^[-1/2)^2]
=[(-1)+(-1/2)]^[-1(1/2)^2]
=[(-1)+(-1)/2)]^[-1)(1/2)^2]
=[(-1)/1+(-1/2)]^[-1)^(1/2)^2]
=[("2)(-1)/1+(-"1)(-1)/2)]^[(-1)^('1.2/2^2)]
=[[2^(-1)]/(2^1)+[^1^(-1)]/('1^2)]^[(-1)^('1/4)]
=[(-2)/2)+(-1)/2)]^[(-1)^('1)]/4]
=[[(-2)+(-1)]/2]^[(-1)^(1/4)]
=[(-2)/2+(-1)/2)]^[(-1)^(1/4)]
=[[(-2)+(-1)]/2]^[(-1)/4]
=[(-3)]/2)]^[(-1)/4]
=[(-3)^(-1)]/(2^4)
=[(-3)/2)]^[(-1)/4]
=[[(-3)]/2)]^[(-1)/4]
=[(-2)/2)+(-1)/2)]^[(-1)/4]
=[[(-2)+(-1)]/2)]^[(-1)/4]
=[(-2)]/(2)+[(-1)]/(2)]^[[(-1)^1]/4]
=[[2^(-1)]/(2^1)+[^1^(-1)]/('1^2)]^[(-1)^('1/4)]
=[("2)(-1)/1+(^1)(-1)/2)]^[(-1)^('1.2/2^2)]
=[(-1)+(-1)/2)]^[(-1)^('1/2)^2]
=[(-1)+(-1)/2)]^[-1)(1/2)^2]
=(-1-1/2)^[-1/2)^2]

STRIKE OUT

N	I	D	E	O	S	T	E	I	T	I	S			
A	E	S	S	A	R	H	A	R	E					
E	L	L	S	L	E	A	C	H	I	N	G			
G	G	A	Y	E	A	L	A							
E	G	G	P	L	A	N	T	A	F	E	W			
A	N	I	L	S	M	D								
I	N	C	U	R	U	D	E	R						
L	D	D	E	L	O	S								
S	C	O	T	R	E	D	L	I	G	H	T			
B	T	N	D	I	N	N	C							
M	A	S	T	O	D	O	N	E	I	R	E			
U	U	N	R	O	A	C	H	J						
N	E	G	L	I	G	E	E	I	S	E	E			

QUICK

	D		E		E		S		L		N			
F		E		L		E	D		K	U	W	A	I	T
	K		T		O		R		A		H			
C		R	I	T	E	R	I	A		Z	E	T	A	
	A				I		M		E					
A	M	P	L	Y		A	T	L	A	R	G	E		
	N				S									
R	U	S	H	I	N	G		U	N	T	I	L		
	C		I		S		O		T					
P	S	S	T		R	O	Y	A	L	I	S	T		
	I		E		T		A		L		A			
C	H	U	K	K	A		T	E	A	M	E	D		
T		S		K		S		G		F				

MENSA PUZZLE
F

RIDDLER
Rhythm, Dreamt, Crispy, Gossip, Liquid or Toluid

QUOTE UNCODE
Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself.

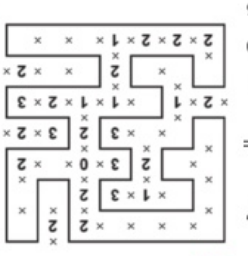
SUDOKU

9	7	6	8	4	5	2	3	1
8	5	3	6	1	2	4	7	9
1	2	4	7	9	3	5	6	8
3	9	1	2	7	6	8	4	5
6	4	5	9	8	1	3	2	7
2	8	7	3	5	4	1	9	6
4	6	8	5	2	9	7	1	3
7	1	9	4	3	8	6	5	2
5	3	2	1	6	7	9	8	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, So, Sot, Toys, Stony, Snooty, Tycoons.

GO FIGURE
4 – 6 + 9 + 1 = 8
Easy
9 + 8 – 6 + 9 = 20
Medium
7 x 6 / 2 + 4 = 25
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO

FAST FIVE

C	R	U	S	T
H	E	N	C	E
E	A	T	E	R
A	T	O	N	E
P	A	P	A	S

BULL'S EYE
arose, tore, FORESAW, rose, soar, sore, sore, swore, wore, worse

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 # Second baby on board
Hollywood star Cameron Diaz and her musician husband Benji Madden have announced the birth of their second child

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Monday, March 25, 2024
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Cupid struck

Vijay Varma reveals when he fell in love with Tamannaah

Vijay Varma and Tamannaah Bhatia's relationship is undoubtedly a topic of discussion for netizens and fans as they celebrate this couple's pictures and moments together for the last one and a half years.

The couple was spotted together at a New Year's party in Goa when people started assuming a relationship between them. This sparked when the duo announced their collaboration in an OTT series, 'Lust Stories 2'.

Now, Vijay made it clear that they did not start dating while sharing the screen together for the show.

While talking to Tanmay Bhat on a YouTube channel, Vijay said that 'Lust Stories 2' is just a cupid for them but the real-life love story started later. They were planning to have a wrap party but it never happened. Only four people showed up to their planned wrap-up party, and that day he felt and told her that he wanted to hang out more with her. It took 20-25 days for the first date to happen after the party.

Tamannaah opened up about her relationship with Vijay in an interview with Film Companion. She called it very organic. According to her, Vijay approached her with all his guard down, and it made things very easy for her to put all her guard down. Tamannaah called him her happy place, who cares deeply.

On the work front, Vijay was last seen in 'Murder Mubarak' co-starring Sara Ali Khan. He is now gearing up for 'Mirzapur 3', 'Ul Jalool Ishq', and 'Matka King'. Tamannaah will be next seen in 'Aranmanai 4' and 'Vedaa'. **-ETimes**

Fangirl Sara

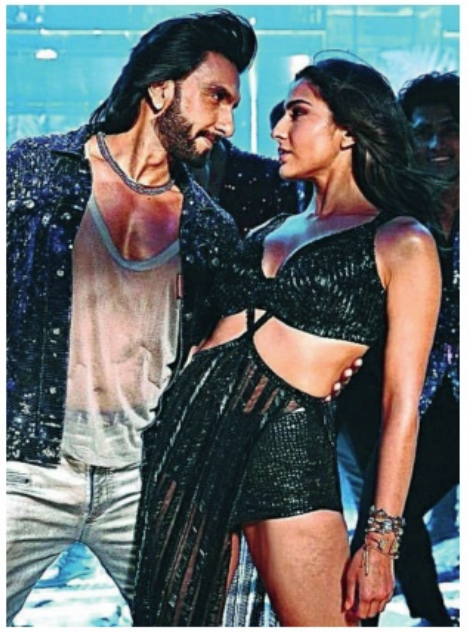
Sara Ali Khan, who is currently receiving praise for her performance in her latest release, 'Ae Watan Mere Watan', recently engaged in a candid rapid-fire round during a recent interview with a media house. When questioned about her dating history with a co-actor, the actress responded with refreshing honesty, affirming a simple "yes."

Furthermore, when prompted about her thoughts on Kartik Aaryan, whom she was previously linked with, Sara opted for a tactful response in an interview with Bollywood Hungama.

Rather than delving into personal details, she cleverly associated him with his professional endeavors, citing the title of the franchise Kartik prominently features in "Bhool Bhulaiyaa."

Sara also revealed her unique way of saving contacts on her phone. She affectionately saved her dad's, Saif Ali Khan's, number under "Father." Her brother, Ibrahim Ali Khan, requested a special nickname, so she listed him as "Iggy." As for her stepmother, Kareena Kapoor Khan, her contact information remains unchanged in Sara's phonebook.

Talking about a rumour she would like to start about herself, Sara, a self-proclaimed Ranveer Singh fan playfully said, "That I am doing all of Ranveer Singh's films!"



Sara recently appeared on "Ae Watan Mere Watan," which is now streaming. In the movie, she portrays the character of Usha Mehta, who played a significant role in India's fight for independence. According to News18 Showsha's review, Sara Ali Khan delivers a commendable performance in the film.

During the conversation, Sara expressed her interest in portraying Indira Gandhi in a biopic. She mentioned that it would be a rewarding experience and something she would like to explore further. **-ETimes**

Challenge accepted

Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is set to star in the upcoming Indian spin-off 'Citadel: Honey Bunny', opens up about the physical challenges faced during the shoot.

During the interaction with the podcast, 'Take 20'. Samantha recounted a physically challenging shoot for 'Citadel' where she fainted during an action sequence due to fatigue and suffered a head concussion.

Talking to her close friend and health coach, Alkesh Sharotri, Samantha mentioned that she had to complete 'Kushi' and film for 'Citadel,' which is highly physical with a lot of action. Consequently, it was extremely strenuous. She explained that many calls were made to Alkesh during the shoot, asking for advice on how to deal with spasms and cramps.

Samantha also revealed that throughout the shoot, she made many calls to Alkesh, reporting that she was experiencing spasms and cramps. She also noted that she had passed out and suffered a concussion.

'Citadel: Honey Bunny' will be the Indian counterpart of the global streaming series 'Citadel'. **-ETimes**

In the footsteps of Appu: A star is born

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Saturday will remain a memorable day for hard-core fans and well-wishers of Puneeth Rajkumar from Hospet and nearby districts who gathered in large numbers to witness the much-awaited launch of their favourite star's nephew Yuva Rajkumar as a hero. Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar, Raghavendra Rajkumar, Mangala Raghavendra Rajkumar, Vinay Rajkumar, artistes, and thousands of people attended the launching event of Yuva Rajkumar who plays the lead in the forthcoming movie Yuva.

Yuva, scheduled to release on March 29, is bankrolled by Vijay Kirgandur under the Hombale Films banner and it is directed by Santosh Ananddram. Bhavana Rao, Nishvika Naidu, Roshni and others entertained the gathering with their scintillating dance performance. Singers Vijay Prakash and Naveen Sajju sang a few songs on the occasion. "The trailer of Yuva is very good. Santosh Ananddram is an amazing director," said actress Bhavana Rao.

From left: Vijay Prakash, Yuva Rajkumar, Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar; Santosh Anandram; Raghavendra Rajkumar and wife

Hitha Chandrasekhar said that her father Sihi Kahi Chandrasekhar acted in Ninnindale in which Puneeth Rajkumar played the lead and it was the first movie bankrolled by Hombale Films. "Now, I am very happy to act in Yuva. I play the sister of Yuva Rajkumar," said Hitha Chandrasekhar.

Sudha Rani, sharing the stage with Achyuth Kumar, said that she visited Hospet for shooting of her movies some years ago. "I am lucky to have opportunities to share screen space with all the actors from Dr Rajkumar's family. Yuva Rajkumar is known for hard work and humility. He has the blessings of all Kannadigas," said Sudha Rani.

Describing Hospet as his native, Raghavendra Rajkumar appealed to the people to support his son Yuva Rajkumar. "I am handing my son Yuva Rajkumar to you for your support and blessings. I am presenting him to you as the son of Puneeth Rajkumar because it is Puneeth who wanted to launch Yuva Rajkumar when Appu was alive. Now, Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar made arrangements to launch Yuva Rajkumar as a hero," he said.

Audio visuals of Hombale Films, Dr Rajkumar, Santosh Anandram and the trailer of Yuva were screened at the event.

Director Santosh Anandram said that Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar is the main reason for the movie. "I want to thank all of you gathered here. I lost Karnataka Rathna but you are my strength. Yuva Rajkumar aka Guru Rajkumar's performance is very good. I consider Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar as a role model. I am grateful to Vijay Kiragandur sir for his support. It is my fourth movie under the Hombale Films banner," said Anandram.

Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar, sharing the stage with Yuva Rajkumar, greeted the people of Hospet with namaskara. "I wish the very best to the cast and crew of Yuva movie," said Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar.

Thanking his aunt, Yuva Rajkumar said that he knew nothing except acting in movies. "I want to hug my aunt as gratitude. Everyone knows who my strength is. I want to thank Vijay sir for his support," said Yuva Rajkumar.